

# **Indiana Teacher Advisory Council**

## ***and Indiana Milken Educators Meeting***

**September 12, 2003**

Members: Mark Weaver, Rick Crosslin, Ralph Walker, Sarah Powley, Jan Weir, Butch Bauer, Tammy Payton, Bonnie Fancher, Rex Bolinger, Sherry Annee, Christine Michael, Theresa Knipstein Meyer, Stacey Atwood, Francis Mustapha, Leah Ward, Cathy Danyluk, special guests: Dr. Suellen Reed, Dr. Jetta Tarr and Mr. Terry Spradlin



Introductions (and catching up on summer news!) were made.

The Advisory Council is an opportunity for teachers and administrators to come together to promote communication between DOE (Dr. Reed) and what is actually going on in the schools. It should be a "heads up" and a "sounding board" opportunity for all involved. Effective communication is the key to success for all students. Parents need to be our partners in this educational process (this is the primary reason why the standards at all levels are written in "plain" and understandable English).

Who is missing from this group? While this is a Milken group, do we need to have any other participants and how would they be selected. Cathy suggested having a Teacher of the Year participant. Dr. Reed mentioned Delta Kappa Gamma (among others) and other professional groups. Dr. Reed asked the entire group to think about this issue and send her a note -- she will discuss our suggestions at the next meeting.



Dr. Reed wanted to discuss those issues that are important: assessment (ISTEP), NCLB and the P-16 Plan.

ISTEP results should be back into the schools by November 17th. The results go to the

schools first so that they can examine the data -- they have a couple of days so that they



can let DOE know if there are any discrepancies or errors in the data analysis that need to be corrected. The results will only then be released to the parents and the public. There is currently a lot of controversy about when testing should occur: fall or spring. Dr. Reed maintains that with the results coming out in the spring, often the results don't get looked at towards

the end of the year and there simply isn't time for remediation. Dr. Reed suggested that she thinks that the people who want the test in the spring are the ones who "want to nail teacher's hides to the wall." She wants all of us to contact our legislators to let them know how we feel.

The No Child Left Behind states that by 2013-2014, all Indiana students will be proficient at their grade level (!). Data suggests that 76% of people have "sort of" heard about NCLB or "never heard" of it. Dr. Reed stated that while, as educators, we recognize that 100% compliance is not really doable, we certainly can strive towards this goal.



The P-16 plan is a "blueprint for Indiana's educational future." The third draft should be available Monday. Dr. Reed emphasized that for many types of job opportunities, some type of post-high school education is required. She also recognizes that parents and students need to make a conscious decision to accept or reject the CORE 40 curriculum in terms of their high school plan. She stated that there still will be a high school diploma but one that will not be the CORE 40 diploma. Dr. Reed stated that if we have strong feelings about this plan, one way or the other, we should be sure to email our concerns to the Roundtable (via the comments section response on the website).



There was a discussion about the ECAs as tied to NCLB (it requires more assessment over an above the ISTEP test). In Indiana, the ECAs will be that supplementary assessment. There was some discussion about the correlation between the Indiana Standards and the ECAs.

The Teacher Advisory Council will be meeting again on Thursday, December 4, 2003 at 12-3 PM and we will continue our discussions with Dr. Reed.

The Spring Milken Meeting will be on Saturday, February 28th (9 AM) Children's Museum (they will be the host along with Rick Crosslin).

For this fall's Milken Announcements, Dr. Jane Foley will be coming to Indiana along with Dr. Reed. The tentative date is October 7, 2003. More details to follow via email from Cathy Danyluk.



Dr. Jetta Tarr was our special guest; she is a Title I Coordinator for the Avon School District. Her focus this afternoon focused on the value of job-embedded professional development in terms of our roles as Milken educators. There is nothing richer than getting mentoring from educators who

have enthusiasm and experience which can be shared with others. She proposed that teachers need a lot of support; she asked the question of how we got to where we are today? What are those characteristics which have made us successful? What makes a quality teacher a quality teacher? Dr. Tarr would like us to consider participating in



gathering this information which would be collected into a study that could be shared with others. A packet was passed out to all Milken members; this survey is voluntary and we can either write out the answers or participate in phone conversation with Jetta.

After a short break, Mr. Terry Spradlin, Legislative Liaison for the IDOE, informed the group present on the particulars of the upcoming governmental agenda and other information. Indiana's P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement DRAFT was presented for comment by the group. Comments were invited to be made at the meeting and also on-line on the IDOE website (as was mentioned earlier in the meeting by Dr. Reed). Comments were immediately made by members of the group for the concern of "default" curriculum or programs. It was thought by some members of the group that "default" would indicate that the default curriculum was a low level or one which was not highly recommended or acceptable. Mr. Spradlin then pointed out Senate Bill No. 473 which dealt with bullying in schools. It was generally thought that the definition within the Bill was not comprehensive enough and only dealt with the action or intent of physical violence. There is hope that it will be re-introduced with a fuller definition. This Bill was introduced by Wyss/Sipe.

Terry Spradlin continued with information on truancy, suspensions, or expulsions, and whether or not there should be “services” for those in this situation. Western Boone has a system in place that all expulsions with family must appear before a judge. There is to be a commission set up to analyze and rewrite the Juvenile Code. It is hoped, too, that there will be strengthened relations between schools/school systems and juvenile justice. Senator Luke Kenley is currently working on a CHINS case.

Other assorted bits and pieces from Terry Spradlin included that there is a new methodology on how to refigure graduations rates; there is a growing concern about school and community nutrition issues. It will also be investigated and possibly be recommended by directive and/or legislation that vending machines in schools should/will provide healthier alternatives and/or the hours for access to them will be limited.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, during lunch, Terry Spradlin has kindly agreed to present and assist with information on how to properly contact and work with your area legislators. This will be beneficial to all of us and something that we have wanted to do for a long time.

Theresa Knipstein Meyer then shared the brief thought provoking and inspiring film “The Dream is the Vision”, better known as the “starfish video”. The Milkens were challenged to write down their thoughts or draw pictures of how it moved them. Several Milkens shared their educational thoughts. Many present requested the address information for this film:

The Dream Is The Vision  
Montgomery County Public Schools  
Organizational Development Team  
Upcounty Regional Services Center  
12900 Middlebrook Road  
Germantown, MD 20874

Sarah Powley shared some wonderful information regarding the book that all Milkens received from the Foundation, *The Children of Willesden Lane*. Sarah was highly involved in analyzing this book and creating teacher resources for this. Sarah also pointed out the Milken Family Foundation supported this book for its educational value. Also, she suggested that if you could not use this or when you were done, to pass it along to someone that could. Reviews indicated that this is a must for curriculum that deals with the subjects involved.

Several bits of information were circulated including information on Dr. Rex Bolinger being recognized as a distinguished alumnus of Ball State; letters from Dr. Jane Foley; and also forwarded comments from Dave Sell reminding everyone in IMEN to send him information regarding themselves and their current events. Please contact him by phone or email at [dsell@decatur.co.k12.in.us](mailto:dsell@decatur.co.k12.in.us) .

The Indiana Milken Educator Network mission statement was reviewed and reflected upon and we reminded ourselves of our “responsibilities”. “The mission...is to celebrate,

support, retain, and advance quality educators and to advocate for the children of Indiana.” With that in mind, we once again revisited the requests of Dr. Tarr. It was again decided to let each member of IMEN make their own decisions as to how or if they would indeed complete and submit the questionnaire. And, it was also discussed of the honor and importance of the request of Dr. Reed to the group, which was not solicited by any member of the group, to be a part of the Teacher Advisory Council which feeds ideas, comments, thought and discussion to Dr. Reed and in turn to the Education Roundtable. There will be a letter drafted, reviewed, and then eventually sent to your school district, principal or necessary supervisor explaining the role that IMEN members, such as yourself, will play and the responsibilities involved in the newly formed Indiana Teacher Advisory Council that will come from the IDOE.

*These notes respectfully submitted by Jan Weir and Mark Weaver*

